Tariff collection for Dolphin

2132. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tariff collection for Dolphin post-paid mobile services has been given to a foreign company;

(b) if so, the details thereof including mode of selection of this foreign company for tariff collection and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that tariff collection for post-paid Dolphin mobile service of MTNL is being done only through cheque that too in cheque drop-box only and the tariff for Dolphin post-paid service is not accepted by staff in Sanchar Haats and other tariff collection centres; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Deutsche Bank in Delhi and Standard Chartered Bank in Mumbai have been identified by MTNL to collect revenue by way of cheques at their designated drop boxes at standard terms and conditions and as per prescribed criteria. This has been done to suit individual's convenience.

(c) No, Sir. There are various centres available to the Post-paid (Dolphin) customers to make payment of their bills *viz.* various payment counters, Sanchar Haats, Banks, ECS etc. Thus payment can be made both in Cash and Cheque. Further, a large number of outlets of M/s Easy Bill are available for receiving the bills of mobile subscribers.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Increase of telephone network in rural areas

2133. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population using telephones both landlines and mobile phones, private and Government in the country; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the telephone network in the country, particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) The requisite information as on 30-06-2006 is given below:—

		PSU				Private			
		Landline		Mobile		Landline		Mobile	
Population in '000'		Total telephone	Tele-density	Total telephone	Tele-density	Total telephone	Tele-density	Total telephone	Tele-density
Rural	795223	12714624	1.60%	2087698	0.26%	0	0%	0	0%
Urban	324577	25782361	7.94%	21235820	6.54%	2560256	0.79%	88796278	27.36%

(b) To increase the teledensity in the country particularly in rural India, some of the important steps taken include:—

(i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to provide suport for expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sectors licensees are eligible for such support. The public and private sectors operator have been awarded tenders for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (R-DELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) through the support from USOF. Support for maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and setting up of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) is also provided through USOF. Out of remaining 66822 accessible, undisputed and undisturbed uncovered villages having population more than 100 as per census 1991 in the country from November 2004 to November 2007, 27481 VPTs have been provided till 30-06-2006. In remote and far flung areas, which are not possible to be covered with terrestrial technology, VPTs are planned to provide on DSPTs (Digital Satellite Phone Terminals). As far as the remaining net cost negative (Viable) SDCAs are concerned, market forces are expected to take care of the emerging demand in rural areas.

(ii) Large-scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas has been planned by BSNL by planning to have three WLL BTSs (Base Terminal Stations) per SDCA which will facilitate for provision of telephones connection almost in remote rural areas.

(iii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km. to 5.0 Km. of Landline Exchanges to facilitate larger coverage in the rural areas from the existing exchanges.

(iv) BSNL is deploying its Mobile Network in all the Highways, Important Towns, Pilgrim Centres and State Highways to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas. BSNL has planned to procure 60 million lines on GSM technology, which will eventually major part of the country including rural areas.

(v) Further to improve the status of rural telephony and for introduction of cellular service in rural areas, a bill for amendment to the Telegraph Act has been introduced in the Parliament on May 19, 2006.

(vi) Subsidy support is being provided for about 18,65,690 Rural DELs in the eligible SDCAs during the period 01-04-2002 and 31-03-2005.

(vii) A proposal is under active consideration of the Government to extend subsidy support for creation of infrastructure to provide mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing wireless coverage.

(viii) In addition to the efforts made by BSNL, the private operators are also offering their services to meet the demand for telephones.

Cyber crimes

2134. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cyber crimes reported during the last two years;

(b) the action taken on each of such complaints; and

(c) the main features of the Indian cyber laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The primary responsibility for